

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03943 131942Z

12
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DEA FOR CUSACK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, SNAR, UN, FR
SUBJECT: UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS: FRENCH POSITIONS

REFS: A) STATE 02498; B) STATE 024153; C) STATE 026073

SUMMARY: FRENCH AND AMERICAN POSITIONS VERY SIMILAR
ON BOTH (1) FREQUENCY OF CND MEETINGS AND (2) STEPS
NECESSARY TO ASSURE SUPPLY OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL
RESEARCH PURPOSES. QUAI OFFICIALS CONTACTED ARE
NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED TO "OPENNESS" ON REARCH RESULTS ON PAPAVER
BRACTEATUM AS WELL AS ON PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM. END
SUMMARY.

1. AFTER SCIATT/DEA PRESENTATION OF US POSITIONS PER
REFTELS B AND C, EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND
SCIATT MET WITH M. DE BRIAN, QUAI OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND MILLE. BALLENCIE,
RESPONSIBLE AT QUAI FOR UN NARCOTICS AFFAIRS. FOLLOW-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 03943 131942Z

ING ARE FRENCH RESPONSES.

2. FREQUENCY OF CND MEETING (REF B). DE BIRAN STATED THAT GOF SUPPORTS VIEW OF ITS TECHNICAL EXPERTS THAT "CURRENT CRISES" IN NARCOTICS WARRANTS CND MEETINGS MORE OFTEN THAN THE 2-YEAR CYCLE ENVISIONED FOR ESOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. GOF WANTS TO ASSURE THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO MINIMIZE COSTS OF THESE (AND OTHER) UN MEETINGS. MILLE. BALLENCIE SAID THAT PRESENT FRENCH THINKING ON APPROPRIATE MECHANISM HAS BEEN TOWARD HOLDING "REGULAR" ANNUAL CND MEETINGS FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF YEARS. QUESTIONED ON WHAT FRENCH ENVISION AS THE LENGTH OF THIS PERIOD, SHE REPLIED ONLY THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE FOR THE DURATION OF THE NARCOTICS CRISIS, BUT THAT EVEN THIS CHOICE IS NOT A FIRM FRENCH POLICY. SHE SAID THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH CND DELEGATION ON THIS SUBJECT ARE TO INTRODUCE NO PROPOSALS, BUT TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY ANY RESOLUTIONS ADVANCED WHICH (1) WOULD PERMIT ANNUAL CND MEETINGS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WITHOUT INSTITUTIONALIZING ANNUAL CND MEETINGS AD INFINITUM; (2) ADDRESSED ADEQUATELY THE QUESTIN OF COST MINIMIZATION. DE BIRAN AND MILLE. BALLENCIE CONCLUDED THAT US AND FRENCH POSITIONS ARE VERY CLOSE.

3. ASSURANCES OF SUPPLY OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES (REF C). DE BIRAN STATED FRENCH GENERAL SUPPORT FOR US POLICY AND STRESSED THAT GOF IS VERY INTERESTED IN RESEARCH INTO SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES FOR OPIATES. EMBOFFS NOTED THAT USG IS ATTEMPTIING TO ADDRESS QUESTION ON CURRENT, SHORT-TERM, AND LONG-TERM BASIS. FIRST, THE US WILL EXERCISE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO RELEASE PARTS OF OPIUM STOCKPILE TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN US INVENTORIES AT SAFE LEVEL. SECONDLY, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WILL BE INTENSIFIED ON PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGIES FOR BOTH PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM AND PAPAVER BRACTEATUM. THE RESULTS OF THIS US RESEARCH WILL BE FREELY AVAILABLE TO ALL AND WE HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SHARE FREELY THEIR RESEARCH RESULTS (SEE PARA4). THIRDLY, US EXPECTS TO CONTINUE RESEARCH SEEKING ADEQUATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 PARIS 03943 131942Z

SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES FOR NATURAL OPIATES, NECESSARILY A LONG-TERM EFFORT. THE OVERALL THRUST IS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND RESEARCH SUPPLIES OF CODEINE OR SUITABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR NOW AND FOR FUTURE. DE BIRAN NOTED SUPPORT OF THIS GOAL.

4. DESPITE COMMERCIAL INTEREST OF GOF-CONTROLLED COMPANY (FRANCOPIA) IN PAPAVER BRACTEATUM, FRENCH OFFICIALS RAISED NO OBJECTION TO "OPEN" RESEARCH ON BOTH PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM AND PAPAVER BRACTEATUM. FYI:

LATTER CONTAINS ESSENTIALLY NO MORPHINE BUT PRODUCES OPIATE THEBAINE. END FYI. FRANCOPIA (1) HAS ALREADY STARTED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION PROGRAM ON BRACTEATUM, AND (2) OWNS WORLD PATENTS ON PROCESS TO CONVERT THEBAINE TO CODEINE (PARIS 16544 OF 15 JUNE 1973, AND PARA 7 OF PARIS 26204 OF 5 OCT 1973). GIVEN RETICENCE OF FRENCH COMPANY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF BRACTEATUM ON PREVIOUS EMBASSY APPROACHES, THIS FONOFF ATTITUDE IS SURPRISING AND MAY INDICATE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IN FONOFF AT POLICY LEVEL OF SUBJECT'S IMPORT. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, SCIATT REPEATED OPEN NATURE OF COMBINED RESEARCH AND AGAIN RECEIVED NO NEGATIVE REACTION. MILLE. BALLENCIE'S SOLE RESPONSE ON SUBJECT OF BRACTEATUM AND SOMNIFERUM WAS THAT HER UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BOTH ARE COVERED BY 1961 CONVENTION WHEREAS ONLY SOMNIFERUM IS UNDER 1972 CONVENTION; SHE STATED SHE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THIS "DISCREPANCY" IN COVERAGE ADDRESSED.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE FONOFF RESPONSES, CND MEETING WOULD APPEAR OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE "OPENNEXX" RESOLUTION ON BRACTEATUM RESEARCH, ALLOWING PERHAPS GREATER OVERALL BUT NOT NECESSARILY COST-FREE ACCESS TO APPARENT CURRENT FRENCH MONOPOLY IN THIS AREA. IRWIN

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